

For the foregoing reasons, the Washington Aqueduct is seeking authorization for an anticipated bypass in order to discharge the accumulated river sediment residuals in Sedimentation Basin #1 and Sedimentation Basin #2 at Georgetown directly into the Potomac River. As part of that request, the Washington Aqueduct has agreed to conduct the discharge consistent with certain provisions in previous permits and under a previous Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement intended to minimize impact from the direct discharge of residuals. These include: (1) no discharge during spring spawning season (February 15- June 30); (2) no discharge through Outfalls 003 and 004 unless the flow in the Potomac River is equal to or greater than 1500 million gallons per day (mgd) as measured at the gauge station at Little Falls (2.90 feet in river elevation); (3) extend the duration of the discharge (which includes a step of an initial draining of flocculent/sediment-laden water and a step that is a final flushing of remaining flocculent/sediment) from Outfalls 003 and 004 to a minimum of thirty-six (36) hours per basin, with each discharge step at a constant rate on an hourly basis; and (4) increase the quantity of untreated water used to flush and clean the basins to twice the amount used for each cleaning in 2001.

Based on and subject to the foregoing and the information and representations provided in the Washington Aqueduct's electronic message dated September 15, 2014, EPA determines that the requirements of Part II, Section B, Paragraph 3 have been satisfied and approves the request for authorization of an anticipated bypass from each of two Georgetown sedimentation basins.